IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Daniel K. Kirchhofer, et al. Appln. No.: 10/678,283 Filed: October 3, 2003 Title: HEPATOCYTE GROWTH FACTOR VARIANTS	Group Art Unit: 1647 Examiner: Marianne P. Allen Confirmation No: 3483 **Customer No: 09157** **Electronically Filed on** 3-11-08

PRELIMINARY RESPONSE ACCOMPANYING REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This document accompanies a Request for Continued Examination and is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed October 22, 2007 for which a three-month period for response was given. An Amendment was filed within two months of the mailing date of the Office Action, on December 12, 2008. An Advisory Action was mailed on December 31, 2007. A petition and fees for a two-month extension of time are included herewith, extending the period for response to March 22, 2008. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. In view of the discussion provided, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

In the unlikely event that this document is separated from the transmittal letter or if fees are required, applicants petition the Commissioner to authorize charging our Deposit Account **07-0630** for any fees required or credits due and any extensions of time necessary to maintain the pendency of this application.